

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are cancelled. New claims 17-35 are in this application.

It is submitted that these claims are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. These claims are presented not for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these claims are presented simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sano et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,445,872).

Claims 1-16 are canceled and new claims 17-35 are presented herein. New independent claim 17 recites in part:

“receiving a first transport stream from a first reproducing device and receiving a second transport stream from a second reproducing device substantially simultaneously with the reception of said first transport stream, wherein said first and second reproducing devices are separate and independent from each other.”

An example of such feature is shown in Figure 1 of the present application. As can be seen, connected to a network bus 1 are separate and independent devices, for example, a tuner 4, video cassette recorder 3, computer archives 2, on-demand terminals 6, and DVD devices 7. Advantageously, the present invention provides that transport streams to be stored/recorded may be supplied simultaneously by two or more of these separate and independent devices via the network bus 1 to a storage device 8.

The Examiner, at paragraph 4 of the Office Action, appears to assert that Fig. 4 of Sano and, in particular, element 21 thereof, teaches the above feature of claim 17. Applicants submit, however, that such portion of Sano (hereinafter merely “Sano”) fails to disclose the such feature. Instead, Sano discloses, in Fig. 4, that radio waves from a single source, such as a satellite, are

received by an antenna 10 and the received signals are supplied to input terminal 21 of a recording apparatus 50. As such, terminal 21 does not appear to receive signals simultaneously from separate and independent reproducing devices.

Accordingly, because Sano fails to disclose, in particular, "receiving a first transport stream from a first reproducing device and receiving a second transport stream from a second reproducing device substantially simultaneously with the reception of said first transport stream, wherein said first and second reproducing devices are separate and independent from each other," Applicants submit that claim 17 is distinguishable from Sano. Claims 18-35 depend ultimately from claim 17, and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable from Sano for at least the reasons previously described.

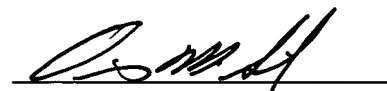
It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is respectfully solicited.

Statements appearing above in regard to the cited reference represent the opinions of Applicants' undersigned attorney and, if the Examiner disagrees with any of such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner indicates specifically where in the reference there is a basis for a contrary view.

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0320 for any additional fees that may be necessary in connection with the filing of this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,
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